

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 275
By Crutchfield

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Henry G. Luken III on being inducted into the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga's Clarence E. Harris Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should honor those professionals who, through their originality and innovative vision, have created and maintained successful businesses that are a credit to the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Henry G. Luken III is one such incredibly successful professional, having recently been inducted into the Clarence E. Harris Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, the U.T.C. College of Business Administration founded the Clarence E. Harris Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame to honor Chattanooga entrepreneurs who represent the early foundations of entrepreneurship in the region, as well as current area entrepreneurs; the Hall of Fame highlights entrepreneurs in our society and creates entrepreneurial role models for aspiring business students; and

WHEREAS, born in Kentucky, Mr. Luken moved to Chattanooga with his family after living in Florida for several years; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, Mr. Luken and a co-founder launched the Dial & Save service, a highly-lucrative subsidiary of Telco Communications which was one of the first dial-around, long-distance phone services in the United States, and it grew by leaps and bounds; and

WHEREAS, after selling his interest in Telco in 1997, Mr. Luken purchased 48 percent of Covista Communications, Inc., and moved the business to Chattanooga, bringing several hundred jobs and many new technological advances to the city; and

WHEREAS, since its relocation to Chattanooga, Covista has provided long-distance and Internet service for both residential and commercial customers in Chattanooga, and is one of only eight telecommunications firms with fiber-optic connections in Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his telecommunications ventures, Mr. Luken also owns Montlake Properties in Soddy-Daisy; His other varied business interests include co-ownership of Equity Broadcasting in Little Rock, Arkansas, a television home-shopping company (ACNTV), and an aircraft sales company; and

WHEREAS, also a true philanthropist, Mr. Luken's has made Covista Communications a vital part of MetroNet, a nonprofit organization offering Internet connectivity by way of Chattanooga's Electric Power Board; and

WHEREAS, his many personal and professional achievements aside, Mr. Luken is perhaps most grateful for the love and companionship that he shares with his family; and

WHEREAS, Henry Luken is truly a remarkable and astute businessman who contributes significantly to the greater good of Chattanooga and the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to this self-made man for his worthy efforts; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Mr. Henry Luken III on his many business accomplishments and his induction into the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga's Clarence E. Harris Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame, and wish him the best in his every future endeavor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.